*Stargirl*

This book is for older readers like high schoolers and even college students. I think it’s a relatable book because at some point we have all met or know that one person that does EVERYTHING differently just like stargirl does. This also lets us see the different “cliques” there are in high school and how much it relates to the schools we all went to. For some this is entirely true and for others it didn’t exist due to the population of the school or location, etc. it also rises issues from which we can relate to in one way or another. Maybe one of us was Hillari Kimble the popular cheerleader who was snotty, or Leo the standoffish kid with a good heart, Chico who enjoyed excitement, or Stargirl who was undefinable.

How powerful you are reflects on the view others have on you. Hillari Kimble was a powerful person in her school who everyone respected because they were scared of her. Whether people respected her out of fear or likeness, it was the power that got her to that respect. When stargirl decided to sing happy birthday to her although Hillari made it very clear not to everyone stood around to see the results. Stargirl was such a different and unique girl that she didn’t care to be an outcast or be yelled at by the most powerful girl in school or even hate at that. It shows that power can really run a society even as small as a school. Towards the middle of the book stargirl becomes popular and everyone likes her for her uniqueness which I think in society sometimes we start to question the “norm” when someone different comes around and is consistent with their difference it becomes appealing to society and interesting so we lean more towards it.

There are various social roles that this text enables. Kerri Kimble is like the “queen bee”; everyone fears her but they also adore her. She is the typical popular girl that everyone knows. Kerri thinks that the world revolves around her and she rules the school so when stargirl goes against her she is furious and flabbergasted. Leo who is the narrator in this story is the boy who is quiet and keeps to himself but deep down he wishes and hopes for the good for everyone. I think that the majority of us are Leo’s; we do just enough to get by and mind our own businesses. We think no one notices us but we do enough to be noticed. Leo was surprised when he did the “hot seat” on stargirl and she said “hi Leo” showing that she does notice him. Chico is all about the excitement whether it be putting the awkward girl in hot seat or going out finding the excitement. I don’t think there are many Chico’s but most of us know at least one Chico. He’s the kid in school who is loud and crazy and everyone knows but isn’t popular. Stargirl who is the main character is the awkward girl who knows she’s different but does not care. She does the opposite of everyone and although everyone hates her at first they start to appreciate her awkwardness because it brings life to the school. Basketball games that no one attended started to increase in attendance. Yes, they got mad at her for cheering for the other team but she made a difference and we all know that one person who made a difference in high school.

In chapter 8 of the book “*pleasures of children’s literature”* there is a section about reading against the text. “The closer the values of a text come to one’s own ideologies, the harder it is to read against the text and to find its absences” (p. 156). In a paraphrase of what the author says next: the reader can ask why it’s so convincible and realistic to them. When a reader can relate to a text and agree with it because it has their own morals and views it gives them the pleasure of feeling in control of what they are reading. The responsibilities of the reader are to see the similarities it has to them and how it relates to them and why it does. The reader must question “how does this relate to me’? “How is it realistic”? As a person the responsibilities we have is to see if we agree with the text and see if the morals and values are portrayed in the text. We must also pick one character in which we most relate to and why.